

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The abstract has been amended as indicated below. A marked-up copy, showing the changes made to the abstract, is attached.

B¹ An ink tank includes an ink container containing an ink, an ink inlet for introducing the ink to the ink container, an air outlet for maintaining the ink container under negative pressure, and a gas-liquid separation mechanism provided at the air outlet which passes gas but not liquid. The ink is introduced to the ink container through the ink inlet by the negative pressure in the ink container, an inner surface of which being surface-processed, and the ink has surface tension of 28 mN/m or higher but not higher than 50 mN/m.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been amended as set out below. A marked-up copy, showing the changes made to the specification, is attached.

The paragraph bridging pages 17 and 18 has been amended as follows:

B² In the carriage B104 of FIG. 8, B124 is a needle cover. When the needle B122 and the joint C105 of the media pack are not connected, the cover B124 comes in a position to protect the needle B122, as shown in FIG. 8, by action of an unshown spring. On the other hand, when the needle B122 and the joint C105 are connected, the cover B124